

In the Specification:

Insert above line 4 of the subject application the new paragraph as follows:

-- **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/009325, entitled "Contour Extracting Device, Contour Extracting

Method, and Contour Extracting Program", filed July 1, 2004, which claims

priority to Japanese Patent Application No.: 2003-270070, filed on July 1, 2003.--